



Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Third Sunday after the Epiphany

January 21, 2024

St. John's Church, Gloucester, MA

(978) 283-1708 marge@stjohnsgloucester.org

<http://www.stjohnsgloucester.org>



A Warm Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church, Gloucester

We know that Christ is present in each person here and we celebrate the diversity of the body of Christ. If this is your first visit, please introduce yourself today and visit again sometime. If you've been away, welcome back. If you are here every week, it's always great to see you! We worship in the Anglican tradition, and are a parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, which is part of the Episcopal Church USA. We honor individuals of every age, gender, ethnic heritage, sexual orientation and religious background. We respect the dignity of every human being.

Newcomers' Welcome

If you're new to St. John's, or just visiting, and we missed you at the door, please accept our warmest welcome. We hope you will experience the power of the Holy Spirit in our worship together. Please greet the Priest as you leave and complete a visitor's card found in each pew and place it in the offertory plate, give it to an usher, or give it to the Priest. We hope to see you again!

Land Acknowledgement

For thousands of years, First Nations people walked on this land in Gloucester; their relationship with the land is at the center of their lives and spirituality. St. Johns is gathered on the traditional territory of the Pawtucket, and we give thanks to them, and acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages. They followed the seasons, hunted, fished, raised families, grieved for their dead, nourished their living, shared the stories of their ancestors, and considered themselves the caretakers of this place.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Prelude: "Take Time to Be Holy"

arr. Charles Callahan

Processional Hymn: #390 (Blue 1982 Hymnal) "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People **Glory to God for ever and ever!**


Collect for Purity

Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

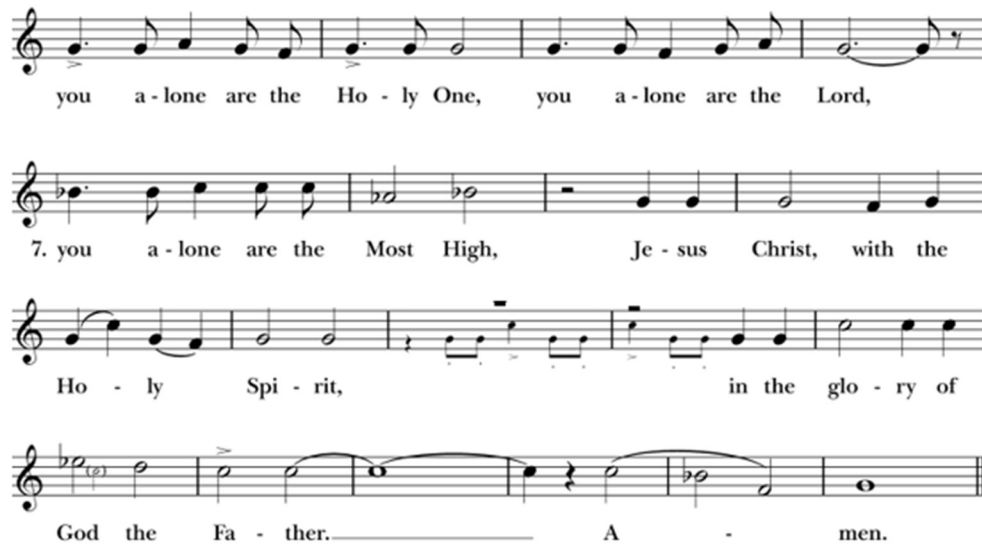
People: **Amen.**

Gloria "Glory to God: Gloria in excelsis"

Mathias



1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -
might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,
on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;
5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For



The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

Holy One, God of all Creation, you call us to be your people, to carry your vision in this time and place, to go where you send us to help welcome your amazing good news. As we gather in the presence of the risen Christ to spread the news that your realm is near, fill us with your Holy Spirit, O God of all Creation. Fill us with your glorious Spirit, that we may share your good news with a world in need. Amen. —<http://www.ministrymatters.com/>

Hebrew Bible

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, “Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Reader: *Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.*

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 62:6-14, *chanted*



6 For God alone my soul in silence **waits**; *
truly, my hope is in **him**.

Repeat first half of chant.

7 He alone is my rock and my **salvation**, *
my stronghold, so that I shall not be **shaken**.

8 In God is my safety and my **honor**; *
God is my strong rock and my **refuge**.

9 Put your trust in him always, O **people**, *
pour out your hearts before him, for God is our
refuge.

10 Those of high degree are but a fleeting **breath**, *
even those of low estate cannot be **trusted**.

11 On the scales they are lighter than a **breath**, *
all of them **together**.

12 Put no trust in extortion;
in robbery take no empty **pride**; *
though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.

13 God has spoken once, twice have I **heard it**, *
that power belongs to **God**.

14 Steadfast love is yours, O **Lord**, *
for you repay everyone according to his **deeds**.

Greek Bible

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

Reader: *Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.*

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Pause to reflect on reading.

Gospel Acclamation:



The Gospel of Mark 1:14-20

The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to Mark. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

After John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Pause to reflect on reading.

Gospel Acclamation can be found on page 4.

Homily

The Rev. Marya DeCarlen

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God,
the creator of all things,
the giver of life and breath.
We believe in Jesus Christ,
born Emmanuel, God with us,
baptized and revealed the most beloved Son of God;
he sought to heal humanity by taking our brokenness upon himself,
suffering for us, dying for us
and being raised from the dead for our sake

and for the sake of all the world.
We believe that he will come again.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
continually poured out refreshing our lives,
leading us into a new day,
ever-birthing the church, the body of Christ in the world.
This Spirit is our soul companion and counselor of truth
reminding us of the gift of faith,
the ever presence of God
and the promise of eternal life.
Thanks be to God! Amen. — *from umcdiscipliship.org*

Prayers of the People

(During the prayers and confession, we invite you to stand or kneel, as you are able.)

Loving God, we gather as your people seeking your presence, your comfort and your love. In this Epiphany Season of light, shine your light upon us – into the recesses of our spirits, those places where we experience anxiety, depression, fear and despair.

God of connection that binds all your people together, we pray that you would guide and inspire our congregations and leaders to the ways of justice and peace, especially the churches in the Boston Harbor Deanery, especially St. Stephen's Church, Boston, Trinity Church, Boston, B-SAFE, B-PEACE for Jorge, Hospitality Home.

Shine your light upon us.

God of power and mercy, bless our nation and its leaders to govern justly and wisely; and especially bless those who are poor, those who struggle with physical and mental illness; those who are forgotten or forsaken.

Shine your light upon us.

God of compassion and peace, who is present where violence and war are found: in Ukraine, Gaza and Jerusalem; in places we cannot name or do not know, bring peace to those who languish in fear, violence and despair.

Shine your light upon us.

God of gentle whisper, we pray for the sick and the distressed, those in the hospital or hospice or the housebound. Today we especially pray for **Lyn Brakeman, Rita Fritz, Sarah Clifford, Ace Torrence and Family, Savannah, Hope, Ondine, Jacoby, Pat Earle, Jay Featherstone, Isabelle Higgins, Christopher Antonuk, Matteo, Alexis Morris, Miranda Featherstone and Family, Barbara Soreng, Marsha White, Claire Stahler, Jennifer Morris, Carole Secrest, Chris Klosterman, Sereda Feener, Lynn Runnells, Alex Furth, Simeon Teitelbaum, Miriam Teitelbaum, Debra Ketchopulos, Rita Peritore, the Baxter Family, Len Berry, Ellen, Wayne Martin, Ernie Runnells, Jack Ketchopulos, DeeDee Bedford, Michael Rocha, Liana and Joe Webb, Anne Sullivan, Linda, Malcolm Henderson, Emelia Currier, Danny, Connor Macauley, Margie Sonthemier, John Fleming.**

Are there others? (Pause)
Shine your light upon us.

God of mercy, we pray for those who mourn the loss of loved ones, whether recently or some time ago. Let the knowledge of your resurrection be a comfort to all those who mourn. We remember before God those who have died , especially_____.

Shine your light upon us.

God of goodness, we thank you for the light that shines through this community and its members. We pray our thanksgivings for those who bless our lives, especially _____. Are there others? (Pause)

Shine your light upon us and around us and within us, that we, too, may be a light to the world.

adapted from worship words.co.uk

Confession

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors. *Silence may be kept.*

God, you know us better than we know ourselves. You know our thoughts, our weaknesses, our motivations, our sins. And you love us still. Forgive us when we don't believe such love is true or possible; When we wonder how You could love us just as we are, when we forget our intricate construction, fearfully, wonderfully made, in Your image! Remove from our minds every thought which keeps us from you. Break down the walls, push aside the pride, and help us to trust anew. You know our hearts. And you love us still. Amen.—*from All Things New, written by Rev. Susan A. Blain and Rev. Scott Ressman. <http://www.ucc.org/50/pdfs/worship-resources.pdf>*

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

Peace

CELEBRANT: Christ is here right now making peace among us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you

Announcements and Prayers for Birthdays, Anniversaries and Travel

Offertory Anthem “*Will you come and follow me?*”

John Bell

The sanctuary lamp burns this week as a reminder to us all of the pathways of peace and forgiveness, especially in the Holy Land.

THE MINISTRY OF THE TABLE: THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Distribution of Communion

St. John's welcomes everyone to come to God's table, for communion, to share in Christ's sustaining life. You may participate by extending your hands and placing one hand over the other for the bread

and sipping from the chalice. If you prefer not to receive wine, you may cross your hands over your chest. You may also come to the altar simply for a blessing, while others come for communion. To receive a blessing, simply cross your arms over your chest. The Priest will pray for God's blessing upon you.

Holy Eucharist

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Holy One be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Open your hearts to the One who is Love.

People **We open our hearts to you, O God.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the one who welcomes the stranger.

People **To the One who reaches across every border, we give thanks and praise.**

In wonder of your expansive embrace, we give you praise, O God. You reveal the limitations of our own imaginations and down walls and boundaries we don't even realize we have erected. Like the magi guided by the light of a star through foreign territory, you call us all towards you. You lead your people across borders of hate and into lands of curiosity and difference. You strengthen us as we journey, learning and unlearning stories about one another. Gathered in your presence, we come to recognize the gifts of community rich in diversity. Therefore we join our voices with your people on earth and all the company of the heavens, singing praise to you,

Sanctus

William Mathias

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

You move in mysterious way, O God. This journey with you is filled with more questions than answers. Each time we think we have you figured out, you surprise us again, revealing yourself in new ways. In Jesus, we saw your welcome of strangers extended in challenging ways. Ways that disrupt our

traditions and unsettle our comfort zones. Jesus broke religious rules in order to include all people. He lifted up the sacredness of the people and places deemed unclean. He cared more about the well-being of the oppressed than his own reputation and taught us to rethink your presence among us; but we couldn't accept it. Resistant to transformation, your people sent him to the cross.

On the night of his arrest, Jesus shared a meal with his companions. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples and said: "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." After the meal, he took the cup, blessed it, and shared it saying: "This cup that is poured out is the new covenant. "In remembrance of all you have done to save us, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ was birthed among us. Christ was killed among us. Christ rises again among us.

May the same Spirit that lifted Christ from the grave be poured out on these gifts. Make this bread and this cup be an extension of your welcome without bounds. Fill us with the courage and faith to join you in the work of tearing down walls that exclude and pointing to the Sacred in the margins. —

—————*From #Resistharm UMC and enfleshed.com*



Celebrant: And now, as Jesus has taught us, we pray

"The Lord's Prayer" S148 (Blue 1982 Hymnal)

Celebrant and People

Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,

your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven.

Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.

For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.

Save us from the time of tri - al, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.

For the king - dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours,

now and for ev - er. A - men.

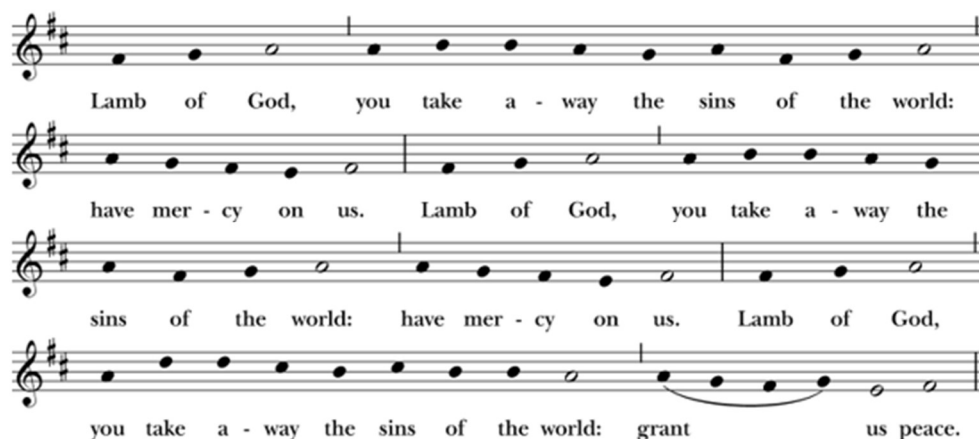
Music: Ambrosian chant; adapt. Mason Martens (1933-1991). Copyright © 1971 Mason Martens.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

Fraction Anthem S 161 "Lamb of God"



Invitation: "The Gifts of God for you, the People of God!"

Communion Hymn : #469 (Blue 1982 Hymnal) *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"*

Post Communion Prayer

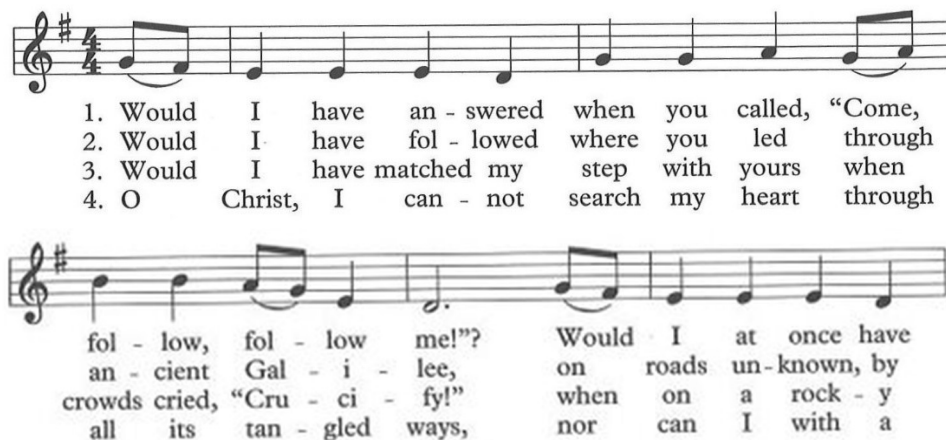
Celebrant: Let us pray together.

God, this meal we shared together is a remembrance of your embrace of the outcast and oppressed. May it strengthen us as we open our minds and hearts to new ways of recognizing your presence among us. AMEN

The Blessing

Celebrant: *Go now as a light to the nations. Honor the Lord; preach what you know of the risen Christ, and fulfill all righteousness. May God strengthen you and bless you with peace; may Christ Jesus bring forth justice for us and among us and may the Holy Spirit alight on you and affirm you as God's beloved ones.*

Recessional: Hymn "Would I have answered when you called?"





left be - hind both work and fam - i -
ways un - tried, be - yond se - cu - ri -
hill I saw a cross a - gainst the
cer - tain mind my stead - fast - ness ap -

ly? Or would the old, fa - mil - iar round have
ty? Or would I soon have hur - ried back where
sky? Or would I too have slipped a - way and
praise. I on - ly pray that when you call, "Come,

held me by its claim and kept the spark with -
home and com - fort drew, where truth you taught would
left you there a - lone, a dy - ing king with
fol - low, fol - low me!" you'll give me strength be -

in my heart from burst - ing in - to flame?
not dis - turb the or - dered world I knew?
crown of thorns up - on a ter - rible throne?
yond my own to fol - low faith - ful - ly.

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: "Postlude on Old 100th"

arr. Fred Bock

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY at coffee hour, Mark Murray-Brown will talk about his fall trip when he walked the Camino.

Annual Meeting coming up! This year, St. John's annual meeting will take place after church service on **Sunday, January 28** to be followed by St. John's annual Epiphany potluck brunch. Mark your calendar to attend this important meeting. Thank you!

Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner celebration scheduled for **February 13 from 4 to 6 pm**, with a Bayou swamp swap (on the order of a traditional Yankee swap) People will be asked to bring unwanted or unappreciated Christmas gifts that they would like to share with others!

Winter is definitely here, and so is the rise in heating costs. The Open Door provides an opportunity for those who face the rising costs of winter to have access to the benefits of healthy, nutritional choices and still pay the bills. Donations from Saint John's helps The Open Door to meet the needs of Cape Ann families. Items needed this week include: spaghetti, pancake mix, dried beans (lentils, split peas, black beans), oatmeal (both plain oats and instant), baby food, diapers, and flavored rice. Many thanks.

Third Sunday after the Epiphany—January 21, 2024

Participating in the Liturgy

Celebrant and Preacher
Deacon Postulant Intern
Lector
LEM
Acolyte
Ushers
Musicians

Altar Guild
Flower Guild
Property Cleaner
Thrift Shop Assistant

The People of God gathered in St. John's Church

The Rev. Marya DeCarlen, Priest-in-Collaboration
Jason Kinchen
Melissa Campbell
Claudette Chmura
Sue Lupo
Connie DeSimone and Doug Musco
The Congregation, the Choir, John Churchwell,
Director of Music
Karen Kasper, Melanie Murray-Brown
Rosemary Sullivan
Lucelia Gomes Ventura
Michele Del Vecchio

COFFEE HOUR TODAY is hosted by Sue Lupo and Claudette Chmura.

- CONTACT MARYA (Priest-in-Collaboration) at mdecarlen@comcast.net or 978-590-1642
- CONTACT JASON (Deacon Postulant Intern) at jason.kinchen@gmail.com or (781)-696-5893
- Sign up in the parish hall for future dates for flower and lamp, Action Sandwiches and coffee hour.
- St. John's Intercession List: Contact prayer list manager, Joan Gorga, at 978-283-5926 or jmgorga@yahoo.com



St. John's Episcopal Church

stjohnsgloucester.org
48 Middle Street, Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930
Parish Office Telephone: 978-283-1708
WiFi Password: 48MiddleSt

The Rt. Rev. Alan McIntosh Gates, Bishop of Mass. & The Rt. Rev. Dr. Carol Gallagher, Assistant Bishop

The Rev. Marya DeCarlen, Priest-in-Collaboration
mdecarlen@comcast.net
Marge Bishop, Church Assistant
marge@stjohnsgloucester.org
John Churchwell, Director of Music
Elizabeth de Veer, Parish Administrator

Wardens: Patricia Anders & Katharine Newhouse
Clerk: Joan Gorga
Treasurer: Sue Lupo, Ass't. Treasurer: Geoff Pope
VESTRY: 2024: Rick Britton, Melanie Murray-Brown, Doug Parsons
2025: Steve Jencks, Dori Mottola, Geoff Pope
2026: Dee Dee Bedford, Sarah Larson